THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Interview of Criminals in Jails by Journalists

807. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that criminals in Jails are being allowed to be interviewed by Journalists:

(b) whether this does not amount to romanticising crime; and

(c) what is Government's policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) 'Prisons' being a State subject as per Entry 4 of List II-State List-of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, it is for the State Governments to regulate matters related to prisons and convicts.

Persons under Security Categories

808. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn in the Press reports regarding Z and Z-Plus category of security which appeared in the Asian Age, dated the 8th May, 1998; and

(b) whether Government would release the list of those in lesser categories of security?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes Sir,

(b) On considerations of security of the protected persons the list of protectees and the level of protection provided to them is not released.

TADA Detenus

809. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons detained under TADA in different States till the end of April, 1998;

(b) whether Government propose to review each case and if so, whether any special agency has been set up in this regard; and

(c) the time schedule within which this exercise is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Information is being collected from the State/UTs and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) and (c) Pending TADA cases are being regularly reviewed by the State Review Committees in the States and the Central Review Committee as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. However, most of these cases are presently pending in the Designated TADA Courts.

Insurgency in Tripura

810. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the concrete steps taken by Government to curb the escalating insurgency in Tripura which has resulted in the death of many innocent people?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): The steps taken to curb insurgency in Tripura include, interalia, deployment of additional units of Central Para Military Forces and the Army, improved coordination and sharing of intelligence, modernisation/upgradation of State Police Fores, declaration of the most seriously affected areas as disturbed areas and notification of the major insurgent groups as unlawful associations. The situation is also kept under watch and is reviewed from time to time.

Parallel Goverment by Exteremists in Nagaland

811. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether even after the extension of the cease-fire agreement with the ultra group in Nagaland the extremists are running a parallel Government in that State;

(b) Whether the so called Government of the people's Republic of Nagaland recently issued orders to all the people of Dimapur to pay compulsory annual tax; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to curb such unlawful activities of the insurgents apart from finding out permanent solution of insurgency?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Instances of the Naga underground outfits, including the NSCN (I/M) with whom the Government of India has entered into a cease-fire agreement, indulging in forcible extortion under the garb of "tax collection by the so called Government of the People's Republic of Nagaland" have come to notice of the Central Government.

(c) Instructions have issued to the State Government to deal firmly with such situation in accordance with the law of the land. NSCB (I/M) have also been warned that such extorition is against the Agreed Ground Rules for cease-fire and that continuation of such practices may seriously jeopardise the cease-fire agreement and invite appropriate response from the security forces.

Government of Nagaland has also been advised to draw up a proper Security Plan for Dimapur to curb such unlawful activities.

Overcrowding in State Run Jails

812. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) investigation has revealed a serious problem of overcrowding in State run jails which often result in untimely deaths due to lack of proper medical attention; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to decongest the state-run Jails in the country and to provide adequate and timely medical attention to the Jail inmates?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Some States reported to have been facing the problem of overcrowding in their jails. However, there is no material with the National Human Rights Commission to conclude that overcrowding often results un untimely deaths. Since 'Prisen' is a State subject as per Entry 4, List-II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, it is primarily for the State Governments to deal with any matter relating to the administration of prisons according to their rules, regulations, and Jail Manuals. The Government of India, however, provides financial assistance under the Scheme of Modernisation of Prison Administration to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in improving prison infrastructure and living conditions of prisoners and to provide medical facilities in Jails. besides, the Tenth Finance Commission has also recommended financial assistance to the State Governments for repair and renovation of old prison buildings and for providing medical facilities in Jails.

Tourists Cheated By Touts

813.SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item appearing in the Express Newline Page of Indian Express, dated the 24th February, 1998 under the caption 'Terrified tourist taken for a ride by touts';

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the cheated tourists have filed an FIR at the Connaught Place Police Station on 6th February;

(c) if so, the details and the action taken, if any, to book the culprists; and

(d) the steps being taken to ensure that the tourists arriving at airports and railway stations are not cheated by unscrupulous touts, taxi drivers, travel agents, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On the basis of complain filed by Ms. Monika of USA on 6.2.98, a case FIR No. 169/98 was registered on 24.2.98 u/s 418/384/341/34 IPC at Police Station Connaught Place, New Delhi. During the investigations, four accused persons were arrested and charge-sheet against them has been filed in the Court. One accused is still absconding. Non-Bailable warrant against him has been obtained from the Court.

(d) In order to ensure that tourists are not cheated by taxi dirvers/touts/unscrupulous persons, the following steps have been taken by the Delhi Police: